

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 82**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell**

August 24, 2011

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 82—Relative to domestic violence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 82, as introduced, Mitchell. Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This measure would recognize October 2011 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all Californians to take a stand against domestic violence.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects millions of Americans  
2 each year without regard to ethnicity, age, race, sexual orientation  
3 or socioeconomic status; and  
4 WHEREAS, The crime of domestic violence violates an  
5 individual’s rights, privacy, dignity, and security, causing immense  
6 physical and emotional pain. This devastating cycle of abuse has  
7 a direct impact not only on the victim but is also a public safety  
8 issue and affects everyone around the victim. In particular, children  
9 who witness violence in the home can suffer from the same social,  
10 psychological, and emotional trauma as an abused individual; and  
11 WHEREAS, Although domestic abuse is often hidden behind  
12 closed doors, it is one of the most prevalent crimes in the United  
13 States. One in four women has been abused, many of whom are  
14 our loved ones, neighbors, and coworkers; and

1 WHEREAS, Domestic violence comes in many forms, both  
2 physical and psychological, but regardless of the type of abuse or  
3 the severity, domestic violence is always a choice an abuser makes;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, California is dedicated to providing educational  
6 programs that promote awareness and teach youths about healthy  
7 relationships; and

8 WHEREAS, Our state is taking steps to hold offenders  
9 accountable and offer more support for victims, and the Legislature  
10 has enacted numerous laws that increase batterer accountability  
11 and increase victim safety; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout our state, there are many organizations  
13 that give safe shelter to victims and their children in a time of need,  
14 demonstrating their commitment to helping victims of domestic  
15 violence by providing counseling services, crisis hotlines, and  
16 legal advocacy; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2010, 84 percent of these organizations reported  
18 an increase in the demand for services, while in that same period,  
19 88 percent of these organizations reported a decrease in funding,  
20 and as a result, fewer victims can be served. For example, in a  
21 survey conducted in a 24 hour period in California, domestic  
22 violence agencies were able to serve 5,261 victims, however, 614  
23 victims had to be turned away, due to a lack of resources; and

24 WHEREAS, The State of California is committed to ending  
25 intimate partner violence; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
27 *thereof concurring*, That October 2011 is Domestic Violence  
28 Awareness Month; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That during the month of October, all Californians  
30 are urged to take a stand against domestic violence, by raising  
31 awareness about this issue and the resources available to victims  
32 seeking to escape abuse, in order to break the cycle of violence  
33 and save countless lives; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
35 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.